



1984 Globe file photo

Raising deposits would aid recycling

Increasing the current deposit on bottles and cans from five cents to 10 or even 20 cents would improve a system which is failing to achieve its original purposes.

Legislators created the bottle bill to clean up the landscape and recycle resources, particularly aluminum and glass, that use large amounts of energy to process their raw materials. Recent talk of using unclaimed deposits as a source of revenue enhancement thwarts these purposes and may lead people to think of the bottle deposit as a tax rather than an ecological incentive.

Walk down a suburban street on rubbish day and you will see cases of bottles that will be buried in the ground as landfill instead of recycled. A discouraging number of aluminum cans sit flattened on our highways.

It takes 20 cans of bottles to get back a dollar in deposits. By increasing the deposit to a dime, the number of bottles or cans would be reduced to 10. By increasing it to 20 cents, bringing in five returns would get you a buck.

The number of empties returned would jump dramatically. Municipalities would have a strong incentive to establish bottle-pickup days or even sort through the trash before burning it or burying it.

Let's increase the deposit and allow the bottle bill to function as it was originally intended.

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Coastal wetlands

at risk, EPA warns

BOSTON GLOBE 8/17/88

WASHINGTON - The nation could lose up to 80 percent of its coastal wetlands to rising seas in the next century if global "greenhouse" warming continues at its current rate, according to an Environmental Protection Agency report released yesterday. The report was based on studies of wetlands near Long Beach Island, N.J., and Charleston, S.C. But it also said Louisiana would be most vulnerable to rising sea levels caused by thermal expansion of water and accelerated melting of polar ice caps and glaciers brought on by increasing global temperatures. The report said the nation stands to lose between 30 percent and 80 percent of its coastal wetlands during the next 100 years if sea levels increase by 5 to 7 feet, which current projections show is possible.

BOSTON GLOBE 8/17/88 4 indicted in R.I. on illegal dumping

PROVIDENCE - Charges of illegal dumping lodged against four men and their companies in Superior Court yesterday should show waste haulers throughout the Northeast that Rhode Island will not be their dumping ground, Attorney General James E. O'Neill said. A total of 840 counts in two indictments were handed up Thursday but kept secret until the men could be arraigned yesterday, O'Neill said. The indictments allege that for almost three years ending in March, a Cranston landfill operated by Jack Capuano, 44, of Cranston and his brother, Daniel J. Capuano Jr., 49, of Jamestown, accepted waste from shredded autos, especially seats and upholstery known as "auto fluff," and shredded metal from appliances. The waste may have been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, known as PCBs, which have been linked to liver and skin cancer. The landfill did not have a state permit and was to have been closed in 1985, state officials said. Pasco Izzo, 52, of Johnston and his son, Pasco Izzo Jr., 32, of North Kingstown, were accused of taking materials from their Johnston scrap company to the Capuano landfill. (AP)

Superfund Records Center

Cranston Sanitary

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Hope amid the crisis

On behalf of the environmental educators of Massachusetts, I want to commend The Boston Sunday Globe and the Learning section staff for an outstanding issue on environmental education ("Classroom earth," July 31).

The media are full of stories of the many crises in today's environment. To mobilize citizens, we need an occasional cause for hope.

Environmental education in Massachusetts is a shining ray of hope for those who occasionally despair at the dimensions of environmental degradation all around us.

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BOSTON GLOBE 8/17/88